

Food Allergy Policy

Reason this policy is important:

Food allergies are becoming more common among infants and young children. Allergic reactions can range from mild skin rashes to severe, life-threatening reactions with breathing difficulties. It is important to reduce the likelihood that these reactions will take place while the child is at child care.

Procedure and Practices, including responsible person(s):

When children with food allergies attend the child care setting: _____
(staff title/name) will provide the family with the Food Allergy Action Plan* to be filled out by the child's health care provider. This action plan must be filled out and returned to

_____ (staff title/name) before child begins program.

- Based on the child's Food Allergy Action Plan, caregivers will receive training and put into practice:
 - Preventing exposure to specific food(s) that trigger allergy
 - Recognize symptoms of allergic reaction
 - Treating allergic reaction
- Parents and staff shall arrange for setting to have appropriate medication (if necessary) on site, proper storage of medication, equipment and training to use while in child care.

_____ (staff title/name) will promptly take proper steps outlined in Action Plan if a reaction occurs in child care.

_____ (staff title/name) will notify emergency medical personal if epinephrine has been given.

_____ (staff title/name) will notify parents of any allergic reaction or possible contact with food that may cause an allergic reaction.

- Individual child's food allergies will be posted prominently in classroom and/or wherever food is prepared (care will be given to confidentiality issues).
- Action Plan and medication will be taken on field trips, including playground or walks, by _____ (staff title/name)

When the policy applies: For all children with food allergies.

Communication plan for staff and parents:

Staff and volunteers will receive a written copy of this policy in their orientation packets before beginning work at the child care.

_____ (staff title/name) will share Food Allergy Action Plan with caregivers and provide training (if necessary).

Food allergies are posted in classroom and food preparation areas. Confidentiality of the child's allergy shall be assured.

References:

CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN, National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs. 3rd Edition. American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, and U.S Department of Health and Human Services. 2012 <http://nrckids.org>
The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network: Fairfax, VA. <http://www.foodallergy.org/> 800-929-4040.

Reviewed by: _____ Director/Owner
_____ Health Professional (physician, nurse)

Name and address of child care agency

Food Allergy Policy

_____ Staff member
_____ Other (parent, advisory committee)

Effective Date and Review Date:

This policy is effective _____ (date) and reviewed annually
_____ (date) or as needed.

*This format is adapted from and used with permission of: National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants, UNC, 2000.

Name and address of child care agency